

May 10, 1977

LB 548, 257, 257A,
536, 544, 547, 204

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Motion is approved. The bill is introduced.

CLERK: Read title to LB 548. Mr. President, committee reports. Your Committee Enrollment and Review reports we have examined and reviewed LB 257 and find the same correctly enrolled, 257A correctly enrolled, 536 correctly enrolled, and 544 correctly enrolled. Signed, Senator Cullan, Chairman.

SENATOR MARVEL: Mr. President.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Is it in order for me to make a motion to have 548 placed on General File? Can I move to have the rules suspended and 547 and 548 placed on General File.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Alright. Soon as I sign this bill. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB 257, 257A, 536, and 544. Now, Senator Marvel, your motion is to suspend the rules and place these two bills...

SENATOR MARVEL: Yes sir, 547 and 548.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: ...547 and 548 on General File. Any discussion? Again, if there is any discussion hold up your hand. Seeing none, the motion before you is the suspension of the rules to place these two bills on General File. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. It requires 30 votes. Record the vote.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to suspend.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Rules are suspended for the purpose of the introduction of these bills...or the placing on General File. So they are placed on General File. Anything further, Mr. Clerk? We will then proceed with the debate on the Barnett amendment to LB 204. The speaking order, the Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I spoke against this the other day because I couldn't imagine taking these people to a hospital in there at \$100 a day and having the county pay for it, which I know they wouldn't be able to do. I have contacted my police department and the hospital. They assured me that they're not going to fill the hospital up with drunks in the first place. I was also against the patrols that they had out at 565 different towns. That has been removed. The decriminalization, I think, is absolutely necessary. I wonder how many of you people know what happens to drunks on Saturday night. What they do is put them in jail, they're too drunk to eat. The next day they're too sick to eat. The next day they let them out and they charge \$2.50 for feeding these prisoners for three different days, \$7.50, and all they've given them is a bowl of soup the second day. That is really all that happens. Next week they're in there for the same purpose again. I think it's wrong. I think it should be decriminalized. You know darn good and well that the criminalization of alcoholism is not working today. Whether this is going to work or not, it's got a two year sunset clause on it. I think we ought to give it a chance to find out if this will work. Change for change alone is no good, but I